

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES \$900,000 GRANT FOR SANFORD

RALEIGH—Gov. Mike Easley announced today that Sanford will receive a \$900,000 grant from the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urban Redevelopment awards. Albemarle, Forest City and Shelby will also receive CDBG awards.

"These funds will go a long way to foster economic growth in troubled areas by encouraging redevelopment that brings both jobs and investments to our towns," said Easley. "CDBG grants will provide resources to local governments that can help build stronger communities across our state and better opportunities for our citizens."

The city of Sanford is awarded \$900,000 for the Crossroads at Depot Park project. The project includes renovating a historic building, repairing a school's roof, acquiring and demolishing a deteriorated building, and providing streetscaping for the distressed area. The total project cost is \$3,631,321 which includes funds from a private developer, Historic Tax Credits, the Downtown Sanford organization, NC DOT, and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Other activities carried out with non-CDBG funds include renovation of the Depot Park, improved lighting, and creation of a greenway and buffer around Little Buffalo Creek.

"We want to offer our thanks to the Governor, his staff and all those locally that worked on this grant," said Rep. John Sauls, who represents the 51st district in the North Carolina House. "We see this grant as an investment. It will further enhance our efforts for economic development in the downtown Sanford area and offer many opportunities for use by the citizens. This depot park has already been used extensively by the citizens of Sanford and Lee County. We are very pleased and again appreciate the efforts of everyone involved."

The Urban Redevelopment Grants are designed to cultivate economic growth in distressed urban areas where at least 50 percent of the buildings are deteriorated or are in danger of becoming a threat to public safety. Improvements in these areas are intended to attract private investment. Proposed projects were reviewed for the severity of needs, the economic impact of the project, and the ongoing local efforts to redevelop the area.

CDBG funds are federal grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. They are distributed on a competitive basis to eligible local governments. The Department of Commerce's Division of Community Assistance, which administers North Carolina's Small Cities CDBG program, reviewed 13 applications and selected four communities.

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